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REPLACE RAILS, WIDEN NORTH KOREA RR LINES

P'YONGYANG-WONSAN LINE GETS HEAVIER RAILS -- T'usa Sinmun, 10 Dec 49

Railroad maintenance crews of the Ministry of Transportation of the People's Republic have been vigorously pushing the rail replacement work between P'yongyang and Sunch'on. This work is a part of the improvement project for the entire length of the P'yongyang-Wonsan line, necessitated by the rapid development of the people's economy and the consequent increase of railway traffic in the northern half of the People's Republic.

The old third-class rail will be replaced with second-class heavier rail in order to carry heavier locomotives. The section between Kowon and Sunch'on already had been changed to second-class rail by improvement projects undertaken in 1947-1948, and heavier locomotives are now operating there. The work to provide this 400-kilometer stretch between P'yongyang and Sunch'on with second-class rail was started in the early part of November, 1949, and 90 percent of the project was completed as of 5 December. The workers on this project have pledged, in response to Premier Kim Il-song's recent appeal for an all-out production increase, that they will complete the project by 15 December 1949.

WIDEN KAECH'ON LINE -- T'usa Sinmun, 11 Dec 49

The work to widen the gauge of the Kaech'on Railroad line in P'yongan Namdo, which was begun in April 1949 is nearing completion. The section between Anju and Yonghung has already been opened for traffic, and the work between Yonghung and Sinsong is now progressing rapidly. Construction of the Komyon tunnel, which was the most difficult task in the entire project of the Kaech'on line, was completed successfully on 5 December. The workers on the Kaech'on line project are endeavoring to speed up the work, including expanding the rail embankment for a distance of 5.6 kilometers, removing rocks at five points, and building new embankments at four points, in order to finish the entire project by 15 December, and to open it to traffic by January 1950.

After opening the Kaech'on line, the distance between Manp'ojin and Sinuiju via the Manp'o and Sinuiju-Seoul lines will be shortened by 170 kilometers.

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